

Merle Virginia Park passed away on Monday, September 20, 2021, while in Juniper Village Memory Care facility in Aurora, Colorado. She was 77.

Merle was born in Philadelphia on May 5, 1944, to John and Ruth (Cole) Black. She grew up in Southampton and Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, and attended Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where she graduated in 1966 with a degree in sociology and elementary education. The same year, she married her college sweetheart, Bob Park, and they eventually settled in the Pittsburgh area, where Bob was employed by Alcoa, and they lived for many years in Mt. Lebanon, where they raised their two sons. She earned a master's degree in community counseling from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

In addition to Pittsburgh, Merle and Bob lived in many other places, including Omaha, Nebraska; Droitwich, England; Long Beach, California; Beverly Shores, Indiana; and Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, where they settled in her family's home in the 1990s.

Because of Merle's lifelong love of vacationing at the Jersey Shore, which she had done almost every summer of her life since she was born, they had also purchased a part-time residence there. It became not only family friendly but a solid friend-making center. Thanks to her hooking up with Habitat for Humanity's ReStore in Asbury Park, The Center Square in Belmar and a few others the last several years of her life were so enjoyable!

Building upon her training in counseling, Merle was dedicated to helping others, spending decades providing counselling, treatment, and therapy to many as well as working as a volunteer for food banks, thrift stores, and even as a costumed guide at Washington Crossing Historic Park. Of course, her enduring focus was on her family, and she was a constant support in the lives of her children and grandchildren. She will be remembered for her unusual sense of humor, her service to others, and her devotion to those she loved.

Merle is survived by Bob Park, her husband of 55 years; her sons Jeffrey, of Boulder, Colorado, and Gregory, of Pittsburgh; her sisters Patty Baker and Debbie Piattelli; and eight grandchildren: Quinn, Naomi, Ella, Isabel, James, Milo, Nicholas, and August. A memorial will take place at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Mt. Lebanon at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 15, 2021. All are welcome to attend and memorialize Merle's wonderful life. Please donate to one of the two charities that she had been so dedicated: Habitat for Humanity and Planned Parenthood.

# **A Witness to the Resurrection**

**In Memory of**

## **Merle Park**

**May 5, 1944 – September 20, 2021**

**on**

**November 15, 2021  
11:00 a.m.**



**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

799 Washington Road · Pittsburgh, PA 15228

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[info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org)

## Organ Prelude *Hymns of the Christian Faith*

### Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Donald R. Ewing

### Call to Worship

Leader: God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.

People: **Therefore, we will not fear,  
though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,**

Leader: Though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.

People: **There is a river whose streams make glad  
the city of God, the holy place  
where the Most High dwells.**

Leader: God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.

People: **The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

### Prayer

\* **Hymn #270** *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* PSALM 23

### Family Reflections x

**Old Testament Lessons** *Psalm 23*  
*Psalm 106:1-5*

\* **Hymn #260** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN' FESTE BURG

**New Testament Lessons**  
*Revelation 7:9-17*  
*Revelation 21:2-7*

**Homily** Don Ewing

## Pastoral Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

\* **Hymn #280** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE

### \* Charge and Blessing

\* **Organ Postlude** *For All the Saints* Held

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\* **Stand, if able**



## Participants

The Rev. Dr. Donald R. Ewing  
*Interim Pastor, Southminster Presbyterian Church*

Mr. Frederic D. Barnes  
*Pastoral Care Associate, Southminster Presbyterian Church*

Mr. Richard Pinkerton  
*Minister of Music, Southminster Presbyterian Church*